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Der Kampf zwischen Kapital und Arbeit: Versuch einer systematischen Darstellung mit besonderer Berücksichtigung der gegenwärtigen deutschen Verhältnisse. By ADOLF WEBER. Tübingen, J. C. B. Mohr, 1910.—575 pp.

This book is the first volume of a work on the labor question. It covers conditions in Germany primarily, and refers only occasionally to England and other countries. It is intended to give an objective account of the existing struggle between labor and capital and its consequences. The exposition of the remedy, the means of attaining social peace, is reserved for a second volume.

In his preface the author says: "It has been my desire to write a book that would not only serve to bring forth critical remarks from a few professional reviewers, who were obeying necessity rather than their own spontaneous desire, but would also furnish accessible reading to those who are outside of the gild." This plan of presentation the author has followed consistently throughout. His style may be called journalistic; but this does not detract from the merits of the book, which is truly scientific, although toward the end it reveals a strong bias in favor of the employer. Some unaccountable errors have crept in; for instance, on page 60, a reference is made to St. Simon as the author of the *System of Economic Contradictions*, which of course is Proudhon's. Other similar errors are not few.

The book is subdivided into three parts. Part i deals both descriptively and theoretically with the conditions which are determining the struggle between labor and capital. Here the author's optimism as to the situation of the working class is very striking. Part ii takes up the actual struggle at the present time in Germany, and accompanies this by a brief historical survey of the struggle in the past. The author is careful to present both sides of the question, and to this end he gives almost equal space to quotations from labor papers and from employer's documents. This part of the book is the most objective and helpful: it gives an excellent insight into the activities of the organizations of labor and capital in Germany. Part iii is again theoretical, and discusses deductively the consequences of the struggle between labor and capital. Here the author noticeably departs from the treatment which characterizes the preceding portions of the work and displays a tendency which puts him unmistakably among the partizans of the employing class. While it must be admitted that not all the effects of trade-unionism upon the working class as a whole, organized and unorganized, have been definitely established by economic science, yet the

author's thesis of the utter uselessness, nay, harmfulness of trade-unionism cannot be accepted as even resembling the truth. On page 532 he makes the assertion that trade unions force up the wages of their members at the expense of the women and house-workers; and in his sweeping condemnation of trade-unionism he is not willing to concede even that the organization of labor hastens inventions. Weber thus puts himself squarely in opposition to writers on the same subject who represent the social reform tendency, like Heinrich Herkner (*cf.* Herkner, *Arbeiterfrage*, Berlin, 1905).

Weber's own solution of the labor problem, which is to be given in the second volume, is in some degree foreshadowed in his affirmation that the wage-earners can better their position, not by a policy of restriction upon the employer, but by increasing the productivity of their labor. This suggests a program along the line of profit-sharing.

J. R. COMMONS.

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN.

A History of Labor Representation. By A. W. HUMPHREY.
London, Constable and Company, 1912.—ii, 199 pp.

Mr. Humphrey has exercised good judgment in concerning himself only with the history of the various movements which have culminated in the presence of forty-two Labor and Socialist members in the existing House of Commons. There are only two hundred pages in his admirable little book. Had he attempted to trace the history of labor legislation at Westminster since 1874, when Burt and Macdonald, the first of the Liberal Labor members, were returned to the House of Commons, six hundred pages would scarcely have sufficed, and there must have been delay in the publication of a book for which there has been an obvious need since 1906. A history of labor legislation since the second extension of the franchise in 1867—the extension that made possible the election of the first group of Liberal Labor members in the Parliaments from 1868 to 1884—must soon be forthcoming. In the meantime students of contemporary British politics are indebted to Mr. Humphrey for an excellent and scholarly presentation of the history of the organizations for the return of Labor members, from the London Workingmen's Association of 1866 to the Labor Representation Committee that was established at a conference at Memorial Hall, London, in February, 1900—the committee that was primarily responsible for the return of twenty-nine Labor members at the general election in 1906.